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County Life

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Artist of the Month
Check out Bob English's woodwork on page 2.

Battery recycling
Dysart receives a smart battery recycling bin. See page 3.

Homes for toads
Read about HHLT's toad house workshop on pages 4 and 5.

A Toad House Building Workshop was hosted by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust at Abbey Gardens on Sunday, Aug. 11. /TIM YANO Special to *County Life*

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- Screened Porch, 2 Stone Fireplaces, Master with Ensuite & Walkout
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Haliburton Home Hardware Building Centre's August Artist feature, The English Woodshed, Bob English

Colour featured; Ainslie's Aqua

Hi, my name is Bob English, and I am The English Woodshed!

I am a retired long-time resident of Haliburton, and during my career I was a paramedic chief, an OPP auxiliary sergeant, and a firefighter. My desire was, and still is, helping people.

For the past 16+ years my hobby has been woodworking. I incorporate scroll saw, fractal burning, and epoxy into my creations. If I see it, I want to recreate it, adding one or more of the above features. My favourite is repurposing items that are destined for the fire or landfill site. Bringing new life to a piece of wood showcasing its unique grain and colour is what's most satisfying. Whether it was an old table, chair, desk, or slab of wood, it still has beauty and purpose.

This display includes such creations from all types of hardwood and softwood with the majority made from repurposed items. Next to none of what you see here has come directly from a retail outlet.

I also do custom work usually from a series of photos, along with dimensions of the item you are interested in. Below is my contact information, and I have business cards available here for you to take with you. I would be more than happy to discuss your idea with you.

I hope you enjoy my creations, and to see more of my items please visit my Facebook page @The English Woodshed.

Submitted

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Foodland *
Godfather's Pizza *
Minden Valumart *
Peavey Industries *
Rexall *
Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton *
Todd's Independent *

All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Dysart gets smart battery recycling bin

JAMES MATTHEWS
County Life Staff

Some recycling containers in Dysart have gotten a little smarter.

Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd. (E360S) unveiled its smart outdoor battery recycling container in Dysart. The containers marked a significant milestone for the company and the province.

The innovative battery recycling container was meticulously designed to withstand harsh weather conditions and mitigate risk. It includes sensors to monitor temperature and material volumes.

The first recycling bin is outside Rails End Gallery & Art Centre at 23 York Street in Haliburton.

John Watson, Dysart's environmental manager, said the launch marked an exciting day for the municipality as well.

"Through this innovative industry partnership, Dysart ratepayers will have another convenient opportunity to recycle their household batteries," he said.

The inception of this innovative solution was inspired by the reduced access for consumers to properly recycle their batteries during the COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying social shutdowns.

The E360S battery recycling facility in Port Colborne specializes in extracting valuable resources from alkaline batteries. It has a recycling efficiency rate of 84 per cent. All recovered resources are reused locally in the manufacture of new products to support the province's circular economy.

Sarah Lacharity from Environmental 360 Solutions, John Watson from Dysart et al, and James Ewles from Environmental 360 Solutions. stop for a photo with Dysart's new battery recycling bins. /Submitted

That high efficiency rate lessens the need to mine and process ore. That process is a major producer of greenhouse gases.

Over the past two years, E360S has worked to create a container that minimizes risks for collection sites and offers unparalleled accessibility.

"The launch of these new outdoor battery collection bins will provide Ontarians with expanded access to a best-in-class solution for used battery recycling," said Andrew Horsman, vice-president of sustainability at E360S.

"These bins are the product of two years of development and innovation and they incorporate all the combined knowledge of E360S' 20-plus years of experience in collecting used batteries safely, and in a way that allows the valuable materials in them to be recovered."

The devices' sensors allow real-time monitoring of the fill level of the container and its internal temperature by E360S' battery recycling team. It will promptly alert E360S if the temperature inside the container rises.

"In the event of thermal activity, the containers are equipped with a quick deployment suppression system providing optimum safety and reliability for outdoor collection placements," Horsman said.

With the bin installation, Dysart residents can recycle their batteries whenever they choose, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Watson said the new Outdoor Battery Recycling Collection Container is a game-changer for the collection of household batteries.

"Dysart is honoured to be one of only a handful of municipalities across the province to implement this new smart-container," Watson said. "E360S has been on the forefront of battery recycling for many years, effectively recycling household batteries into fertilizers and scrap metal."

The development and testing of the recycling container was made possible through a collaboration between E360S and Sam Santucci, an engineering graduate from Niagara College.

To assess consumer response, outdoor battery recycling containers were strategically placed throughout Ontario over the summer.

"Our newly acquired team has more than 40 years of experience and helped facilitate the first curbside battery collection in North America, as well as other innovative programs that once helped Ontario achieve the highest capture rate in North America," said Donato Ardellini, E360S Founder and CEO.

"These cutting-edge collection containers signify a new era of accessibility and will fundamentally reshape the battery recycling landscape here in Ontario and across North America."

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Haliburton & District Lions Club

STORIES IN THE PARK FUN FAIR 2024

What: The Haliburton Lions Stories in the Park Fun Fair for Children

Why: To provide a free community event for children and families; to give every child a New Book and a Fun Fair in the park.

Where: Head Lake Park, Haliburton

When: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 ~ 12 to 2:00 pm

What Will It Look Like:

- Individual, low-impact, non-competitive games such as Bean Bag Toss, Mini Putt, Giant Pick-Up Sticks, Ladder Toss, Fish Pond and more!
- Free New Book for every child
- Gord Kidd & Friends ~ Family Dance Party
- Guessing Games
- Photo Boards
- Story Reading at "The Story Tree"
- Paint a Story
- Free hot dogs, popcorn and juice boxes for all the children!

FEATURED CHILDREN'S AUTHORS
Daniela Ferrante and Dina Russo-De Cotiis.

You can find our featured author at the Story Tree at 12:15 pm & 1:15 pm

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Toad shelters go upscale

RICK WHITTEKER
Special to *County Life*

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust's Toad House Workshop too place at Abbey Gardens on Sunday, Aug. 11. /TIM YANO Special to County Life

The quality of the toad houses in Haliburton County just took a major step forward. No longer do our local toads have to languish in old wood piles or messy leaf litter.

On Sunday, August 11, the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust offered the first of three workshops geared towards the interests of private landowners who have joined the Partners in Conservation program, part of a large conservation initiative called the Highlands Corridor.

Also open to the public, 18 adults and youth joined Mary Anne Barkhouse, a multidisciplinary artist specializing in art installations for an afternoon of clay sculpture-building. Mary Anne provided the expertise, the clay, a wide choice of tools and other implements including letter stamps leaving the rest was up to the participants to design a shelter that was inviting to toads!

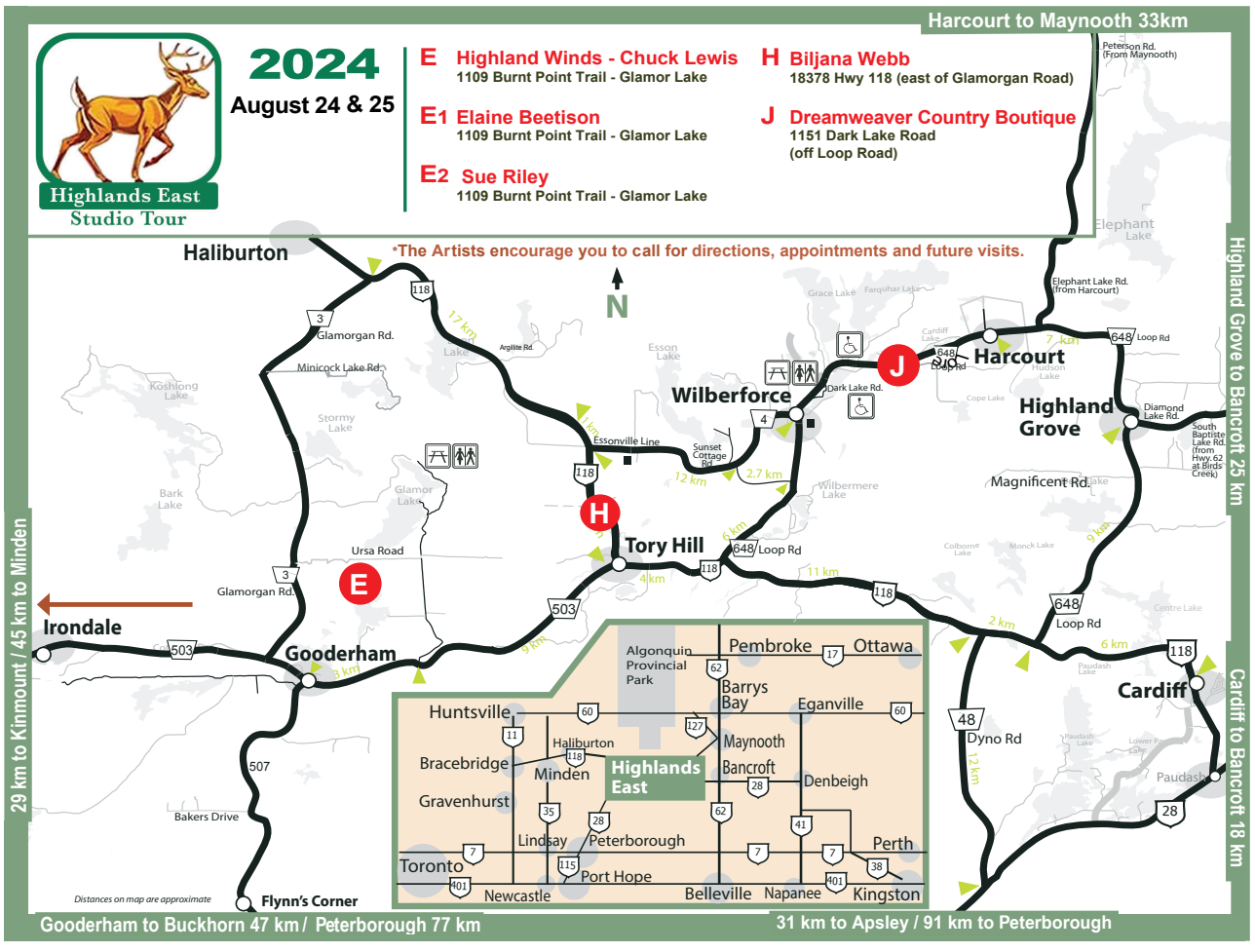
With the creativity of the workshop participants on full display, some houses looked like they drew inspiration from The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings. Other clay shelters were adorned with mushrooms, dragonflies, slopping roof tops with chimneys and colourful doorways with TOAD HOUSE etched above the entrance!

The setting for the workshop was under the outdoor shelter across from the horse and pony paddock at Abbey Gardens. This large, open shelter stands on a knoll overlooking a rehabilitated gravel pit and was a great location for this workshop. Abbey Gardens is a unique model of land stewardship and is well aligned with the goals of the workshop supporting wildlife populations through this creative stewardship activity.

These clay structures make suitable shelters for both frogs and toads, allowing them to stay cool and moist, an important strategy for all amphibians. Toads tend to spend most of their time on land rather than in water so finding suitable, safe shelters on land is important for their survival.

Placing these houses in cool moist areas will likely attract toads looking for cover. A backyard garden can be a great choice of location, especially in areas of the garden that receive less sun or are more vegetated. Toads can benefit the gardener by eating slugs, beetles and insects that may otherwise damage garden plants.

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust would like to thank the Haliburton County Development Corporation for their generous Local Initiatives Program grant which supports this workshop series. The next workshop is called Trail Building 101 and is taking place at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve on Saturday, September 14 from 9 am-3 pm. For more information and to register, please visit www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca and look under the News & Events tab.



Get The Word Out

Let people know about your event. Send it in to our FREE community events listing in the Haliburton Echo, Minden Times and County Life. Email the basics to Pat Lewis: classifieds@haliburtonpress.com or call us at 705-457-1037.

Writing on the Senior Side

What's your thing?

GAIL STELTER

Special to *County Life*

What is your senior side thing? Our thing is unique to each of us: that thing that relaxes or challenges or keeps us happy. I suppose we have more than one thing but for now let's pick the thing, other than love and family, that says who you are. What is your special thing? Why is it so special? When, where, how do you do it? Do you have a thing that has been present, perhaps in various forms, your whole life? I think reading, writing and working with kids have all been my thing but there is one other.

Swimming is my thing, I use the word "thing" purposely. It is not my sport. It is my exercise and relaxation. Some years ago, I was swimming so slowly in a pool in Florida that I earned the nickname Turtle. I am okay with that, even though I am much faster now, honest. (I do remember that it was the turtle that won the race. So far I am winning the race of keeping healthy.)

In Canada during the Roaring Twenties, luxury hotels began to install glamorous swimming pools for the enjoyment of their guests. To this day it is possible to have the pleasure of swimming a few laps while appreciating the marvels of architecture and design of both the Chateau Laurier pool, built in 1928 and the Banff Springs Hotel pool, constructed in 1930. I have never seen either of these pools but I am thinking that might be fun. I also read that it was only with the proliferation in demand for the construction of privately owned backyard outdoor pools in the 1950s that the Canadian industry rose to prominence. But wait, did you know any family in the 1950s who had a backyard pool? There certainly weren't any on Smithfield Drive. I had never even heard of anyone who had a pool. In my childhood world, backyard pools were for the rich and did not happen in boomer suburbia.

We were the beach generation. My earliest recollection was when I was four years old and my mom took me on the Long Branch Street Car to New Toronto. We walked behind some stores and magically the beach appeared. We played in the sand, sat in the water and pretended to swim. My mom didn't know how to swim and she was very cautious with me. Another beach outing happened several times over my childhood years and I smile when I think of this:

"Gates, the ferry boat whistle is going to blow."

"Okay, mom, I'm ready. I won't be afraid."

But I was never ready. Every time that boat whistle blew I jumped a foot in the air. Once the whistle was over, I loved the ride and the beach at Centre Island was perfect.

Our family favourite beach was Innisfil Beach on Lake Simcoe. This was a car trip, a picnic and a day at the beach that lasted into the evening. We sang songs in the car including Irene Goodnight, Sweet Rosie O'Grady, The Tennessee Waltz, On Top of Old Smokey and Found a Peanut. We even took pictures. The only picture I have of just my family: my mom, dad, brother and me was taken there. Perhaps that is why I love this memory.

Beaches were part of cottaging and one we rented was near Minden and I taught myself how to swim. I was embarrassed to be the only kid my age who didn't know how to swim. My great accomplishment was to be able to join the other kids on the floating dock.

Boomer kids were very independent and braved the neighbourhood outdoor pools. Sunnyside and Tenth Street pools were cold water right out of Lake Ontario. Sunnyside had a beach but that cold water and the smell of dead fish made the beach fine for lying in the sun but not not swimming. Sunnyside is the home of my bellyflops as I taught myself to dive. It took many attempts but I finally did it. You guessed it, I was the only kid my age who didn't know how to dive. Success is sweet when you work hard for it.

Etobicoke indoor pool on Montgomery Road felt like a second home. While In high school, I taught swimming every Thursday night at the CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) Swim Club. I taught little ones to put their faces in the water, blow bubbles and float on their fronts and backs. It was fun.

In 1980, I was a stay-at-home mom. We put in our backyard pool. With four little ones ages six months to seven years, it was an exciting adventure and such a wonderful family life change. However, I will never forget the neighbour who said, "I didn't think you could afford a pool." Oh, I smiled and said nothing. I wanted to say, "You make your choices." I also didn't tell her that our next new car would be a smaller inexpensive one.

So, it is no surprise that the cottage beckoned and here I am living in the highlands lake country. Swimming on the senior side is still my thing. I step down into the water and it is always refreshing - my word for cold - and I swim for 30 to 40 minutes. I talk to the loon and blue heron and I tell the motorboats to keep away. Sometimes I fight waves and other times I relax in the calm. I count strokes. There is no reason to count strokes. I count anyway. I swim to my halfway log that sticks out of the water and then I swim back. When I am done, I am tired. I know my heart, and lungs are happy and I feel great. And, oh yes, I almost forgot. arthritic bones like swimming too.

Enjoy your thing and even if swimming is not your thing, I hope you find time to enjoy beaches, pools and lakes. More importantly, I hope you find lots of time to pursue and enjoy your thing.

Editorial

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Send your letters to the editor to vivian@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

County Life is produced by The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times, and published by White Pine Media Corp. Audited circulation: 6,372 July 1 - Dec 31, 2015

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Stories for everyone

KATE BUTLER
Special to *County Life*

THIS AFTERNOON, as I watched the torrential rain and listened to the rumbling, grumbling thunder, I found myself thinking that it was a perfect afternoon for some reading.

When I was a little kid, our local library was an essential part of my summer plans. Not only was it home to the cozy community room where the library's French Club met and programs for all occasions were held, but it also had seemingly endless shelves of appealing reads. The library was also the headquarters for a summer reading program, which, each year, took me on new adventures and reminded me of the breadth and variety of reading material that was available to me.

I've noticed that as adults, we can have a tendency to judge our choices as readers. Have you ever found yourself using the qualifier "just" with respect to what you're reading? Just a beach read? Just a (insert what is actually your favourite genre here) novel? It can be easy today to take the existence of books for granted, but the way in which they can transport us to different times and places, filled with characters who can sway our emotions and linger in our memories is quite remarkable, so make sure to embrace your favourite genres and the authors whose writing you enjoy.

It can also be valuable to extend some kindness to ourselves about our reading styles. Do you prefer short books or even short stories? That's wonderful - leave the lengthy tomes for someone else who prefers that sort of read. Maybe you only read a few pages before you switch off the bedside light each night. That's great because it prolongs the pleasure of the book. Perhaps you return to certain books and read them again and again. There are reasons why some books are considered classics and, in addition, some books simply bring us comfort, reuniting us with characters who feel like friends rather than simply words on a page. Is there a book that you're feeling pressured to read? Perhaps an award winner that everyone else seems to be reading and declaring that you should too? While there's huge value in being open-minded and bringing curiosity to your reading choices, you don't have to read something just because someone else told you you should. Also, if you pick up a new read and you aren't enjoying it, give yourself permission to not finish it. That book will find its perfect audience somewhere else. If reading from the page (paper or digital) doesn't appeal to you, why not try an audio book? Audio books may be modern inventions, but they actually link us back to some of the most enduring ways of telling and sharing stories, and who doesn't love to be told an engaging tale?

I sincerely believe that there are stories out there for everyone, but if you're still trying to find the ones for you, or perhaps you're just looking for your next favourite read, the Haliburton Highlands are filled with people and places that can help you out. Visit one of the branches of the Haliburton County Public Library system or stop into one of our community's local bookstores. If you have a young reader in your life, make sure to take them down to Head Lake Park on August 28 for the annual Stories in the Park event, hosted by the Haliburton Lions, long-standing supporters and organizers of youth literacy initiatives. August may be winding down, but there's still time to get some summer reading in - make sure to do it in a way that makes you happy!

Top 10 reasons you need to justify the purchase of a new fish finder

IF YOU HAVE been thinking of buying a new state-of-the-art fish finder lately (and who hasn't?), you also know that before you walk into the house with one, you will probably need to justify the expense.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

That's why, as a public service to my fellow anglers, I came up with the top 10 reasons you need to justify the purchase of a new fish finder. They are:

1. Your old fish finder only found old fish.
2. It is imperative, if you want to pitch your "Finder of Lost Fish." TV show.
3. Otherwise, how are you going to know where to drop your depth charges?
4. It allows you to be conversant about lake bottoms, so you will be the life of the party at any social gathering.
5. To help confirm there are no "Loch Ness" type monsters in the waters you fish.
6. It's always fun to be able to see the fish that are taunting you.
7. We all need more screen time.
8. Who doesn't need a new piece of equipment to blame?
9. You just love reading 200-page technical manuals.
10. After you buy it, you can brag that the average price of the fish you eat is $300 a pound.

Northbound

Cranes scraping Sky,
a forest of concrete trees, towering over me, blotting the face of Sun,
weeds springing from cracks in the cement, the only slivers of green I see,
as I scurry along the sidewalk, carried by a current of strangers that are in a hurry too, rushing to get somewhere,
Air, smothered in layers of smog and grime, my Heart hiccupping in my chest,
worried that I won't be on time to catch the bus that winds its way North,
where forests of pine and an uncluttered Sky offer a feast for my eyes and my famished soul,
whenever I've been away for too long, the yearning for space and Lakes, swelling inside me,
as I streak across the street when the lights blink green, my Heart squirming as car horns blare and a siren wails,
my feet craving the pebbles on the trail, rather than these slabs of concrete,
strangers' eyes that I pass, that aren't shielded by shades, staring straight ahead,
but on the trail, a stranger becomes a friend, whether for a moment or a lifetime,
forging a camaraderie, walking and talking, natural as the trees that grow and the streams that flow all around us.
I reach the bus depot with minutes to spare, choking on fur balls of Air,
others, like me, waiting to flee the cacophony and crowds, to a place where bodies can breathe
and Hearts can beat to the rhythm of earth's Breath cradling their steps,
canopied by Sky, wide as eyes peering up in wonder at the vastness of it all, rather than staring down at phones,
feeling less alone on a trail, surrounded by trees and boulders, than standing in line,
grazing the shoulders of strangers that are filing onto the bus,
a window seat for my knapsack and me, the bird fluttering in the nest of my chest, slowing to a steady heartbeat,
as I hunker down to enjoy the ride, in four hours we'll arrive in the place of Lakes and hills and big Sky,
a voice asking me if this seat is taken, No, I say, as I yank my knapsack away,
peering up into the eyes of a stranger that became a friend on the trail a while ago,
I stare into the leafy green of her eyes, grinning up at this person that I haven't seen in a long time,
asking me, How I've been, as she settles into her seat, the conversation as natural as it was on the trail that first day,
invigorating as northern Air, as we share morsels of our lives, our words unfurling through daylight into dusk,
along the highway and back roads 'till we are there, the silence of Sky blanketing the Lake,
as we disembark and say, See you on the trail, instead of Good-Bye,
our eyes lifting in unison, to drink in the wonder of northern Sky.

Sylvie Kalenda

Repair Café September date change

Repair Cafés for all of 2024 take place on the first Sunday of each month at the SIRCH Bistro & Bakery however, due to Labour Day weekend happening on the 1st Sunday, this next Repair Café date will change to Sunday, September 8, the second Sunday for this month. The event will still be held at 49 Maple Ave. in Haliburton.

More details to follow on our special Guest for September.

We are also looking for fixers and volunteers of all kinds! If you enjoy repairing things and helping others learn how, we invite you to join us as a volunteer fixer at the Repair Café.

If you're looking for more information, call SIRCH at 705-457-1742 or visit www.sirch.on.ca.

Submitted

Nominations for Business and Community Achievement Awards open

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce will announce award winners at the Awards Gala on Oct. 25.

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the 16th Annual Business & Community Achievement Awards!

The Chamber is committed to recognizing and supporting strong organizations within our community. As with every other year, we are excited to see this year's nominations and learn more about the stories behind them," said Amanda Conn, Executive Director of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce Board President Mark Bell added, "We have so many excellent businesses, impactful not-for-profits and amazing individuals in the county to recognize; let's make sure they all get the nominations they deserve." Since last year's awards, the Chamber has reviewed and updated the award categories and our processes. The result was the addition of some new categories such as Established Business of the Year, Retail Business of the Year and Professional Services Business of the Year. We have also redefined a number of categories.

This year, the Chamber is launching a new solution to facilitate Express Nominations. Through the Awardify Platform, members of the public and Chamber Members will be able to nominate exceptional businesses and individuals quickly. The nominee will then be able to supplement the nomination with additional information, and the platform will manage our anonymous judging process. To make a nomination or to learn more about the new process, visit haliburtonawards.com or use the homepage link on our website, haliburtonchamber.com

This year, the Chamber will be accepting nominations in 14 different categories. These categories are:

- Business Woman of The Year
- Customer Service Excellence - Business
- Customer Service Excellence - Employee
- Employer of the Year
- Established Business of the Year
- Highlander of the Year
- Individual Leadership Business Achievement
- Industry & Skilled Trades of the Year
- New Business of the Year
- Not-for-Profit of the Year
- Professional Service Business of the Year
- Tourism & Hospitality Business of the Year
- Young Professional of the Year
- Retail Business of the Year

To learn more about each award and to nominate a business or individual, please visit haliburtonawards.com or haliburtonchamber.com.

Nominations close at 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 27. Nominees will then have till Oct. 3 to review their nominations and add supplementary information.

Winners will be announced at this year's Gala on Oct. 25. This premier event will celebrate excellence in our community and conclude Small Business Week in Haliburton County. Tickets for the Gala will go on sale Sept. 1.

Submitted

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Old Times Afternoon Tea
When: Saturday, Aug. 24, 1:15 to 4 p.m.
Where: Red Cross Outpost Museum, 2314 Loop Road, Wilberforce
The Wilberforce Heritage Guild is hosting a tea party. Enjoy old fashioned tea and sweets. Bring a friend and make new ones in a special place. Visit www.facebook.com/wilberforceoutpost or contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598 or wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca

Gull Lake Rock the Dock in support of Minden Community Food Centre
When: Sunday, Sept. 1 from 2 to 5 p.m..
Where: The host cottage is located across the Lake from Kilcoo Camp.
In conjunction with the food centre team we are raising money and taking food donations.

Recurring events

Stanhope Heritage Museum Summer Season
When: Wednesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands
New exhibits this year include local summer camp history featuring Camp Kawabi on Big Hawk Lake, the Maple Lake Settlement, and a re-fresh to the Historic Log Chute Model. The on-site Resource Center awaits your enquiries and, best of all … the museum's award-winning marmalade is available! Contact info@alqonquinhighlands.ca or 705-489-2379 for more information.

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Lakeside Church Service
When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
Whoever you are, wherever you've been, you are welcome here.

Haliburton Sculpture Forest Free Guided Walking Tours
When: Tuesdays in July and August, 10 a.m.
Where: 297 College Dr. Haliburton
Meet at the kiosk in the Fleming College - Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held rain or shine and can take up to 2 hours. Tours are free but donations are greatly appreciated. For more information visit: www.haliburtonsculptureforest.ca

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 & 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. 5 spins for $10. The first 4 rounds are for highest and lowest score with 2 winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call (705) 454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

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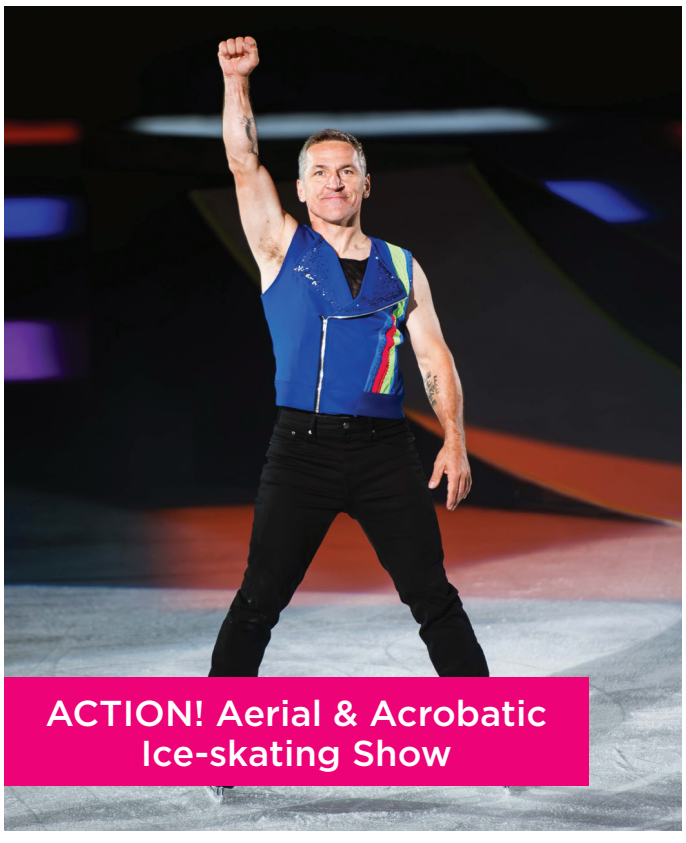
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Voices of Classic Rock

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Info Line: 416.263.3330

Highlands Opera Studio presented an night of opera at St. George's Anglican Church in Haliburton on Monday, Aug. 12. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

Highlands Opera Studio celebrates 18 years

VIVIAN COLLINGS
County Life Editor

Highlands Opera Studio (HOS) celebrated 18 years of opera in Haliburton County this season with a captivating, important production.

Commissioned by HOS themselves, *Mishabooz's Realm* was written by the composer Andrew Balfour. It was originally produced and presented in 2017 in collaboration with L'Atelier lyrique de l'Opera de de Montreal.

Balfour is part of the Cree First Nation, and combined opera with instrumentalists and singers from the First Nations of Ontario.

"*Mishabooz's Realm* takes us on a journey through Creation, Colonization, and ultimately hope for the future," said HOS.

A special pre-performance chat, "Teachings from the Longhouse," was offered by the Mohawk Elder Advisor and cast member of the production, Kevin Deer.

Visit highlandsoperastudio.com for tickets for HOS events.

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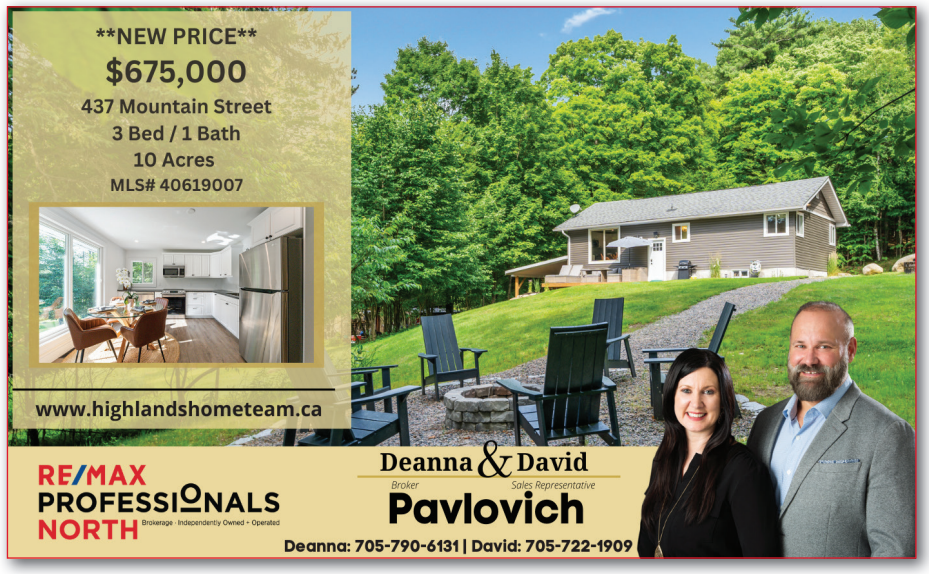

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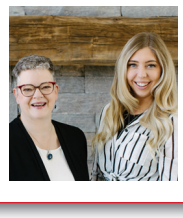

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Friends Café with Bernie Nicholls

Hockey fans and library patrons alike should put Monday, September 9th on their calendars. The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library are hosting a special event at the Minden Library, 176 Bobcaygeon Road. Bernie Nicholls will be there at 1pm to have a conversation about his book called "From Floodlights to Bright Lights". It is a candid collection of memories from his childhood in the village of West Guilford, and his journey to NHL stardom.

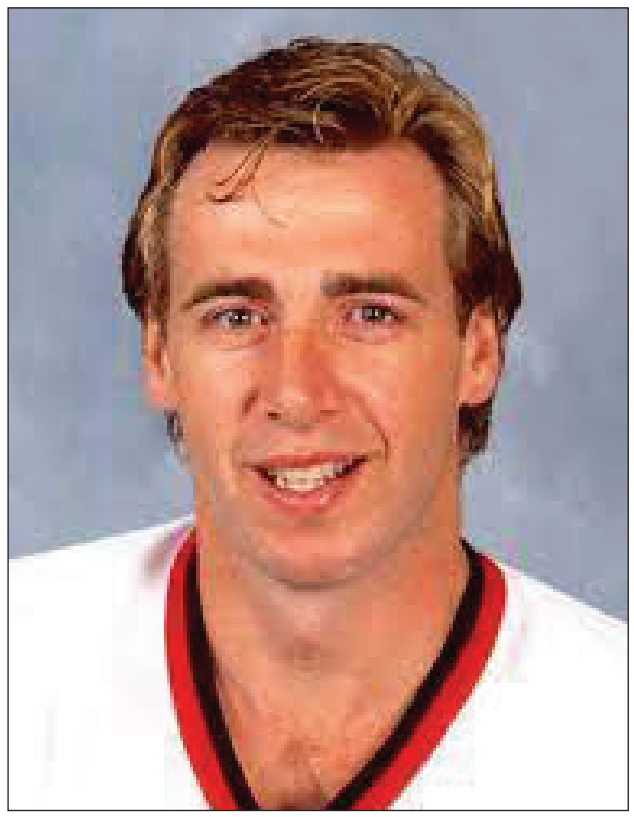
Like a lot of kids who find their refuge in sports, Bernie had more energy than he knew what to do with. "My parents might have thought I'd make a better juvenile delinquent than an NHL star," he admits in the book, recounting some comical childhood pranks. His parents, George and Marj Nicholls, raised five kids in a modest home with one bathroom and a TV that only got two channels. "It was like Mayberry," Bernie says. He fondly recalls practicing face-offs on the kitchen floor and skating under the floodlights of the outdoor rink his dad built. The family called it Tag Alder Gardens, and local kids still skate there every winter.

This book provides an authentic look into the world of professional athletes. It has some surprising stories about ups and downs behind the scenes. There were physical challenges from concussions to bone fractures. There were conflicts within the organization, unexpected trades, and the stress of constant travel. Bernie speaks honestly about the difficulties of balancing career expectations and family responsibilities.

The chapter called "Bernie and Wayne's Excellent Adventure," tells about his relationship with the Great One. Wayne Gretzky wrote the forward for this book and it speaks to their mutual respect as team members. Proceeds from book sales go to the Bernie Nicholls Foundation that helps underserved youth and their families. "From Floodlights to Bright Lights" will be available for purchase at the event. Admission is by donation and there will be refreshments provided by the Friends of the HCPL.

Submitted by Janet Trull, Friend of the HCPL

/Submitted



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Paranormal Seekers find activity at Dominion Hotel

THOMAS SMITH
County Life Staff

A few months ago, The Paranormal Seekers, a paranormal investigation group based in Durham Region investigated the Sterling Bank at the Minden Cultural Centre. Afterwards, the group contacted Shawn Chamberlin about investigating the Dominion Hotel. Shawn Chamberlin, owner of the Dominion Hotel, says that the Dominion Hotel is the oldest building in Haliburton County. While Chamberlin has had amateur paranormal enthusiasts stay and investigate paranormal happenings, he has never been approached by a professional group of paranormal investigators before.

"There are a lot of stories about the Dominion Hotel. A lot of these stories are more about things that happened here. Funny doors that open," said Chamberlin. "We have a cougher. We have somebody who coughs in the pub area and we don't know who it is and we are the only ones there. It is so real that at different times my son has said bless you, not realizing there is nobody there."

"Just strange things happen, like sometimes a door opens on its own. Sometimes in the kitchen a door will just open and we think somebody will want to come in or go out," said Elli Chamberlin.

"We have things like people walking or people complaining that there was a party upstairs, but they were on the top floor. So that is kind of weird," said Shawn Chamberlin with a laugh.

The ground floor of the Dominion Hotel is the restaurant and reception area. On the second floor, there are six rooms for guests to rent. The third floor is an attic they use for storage.

"About a month ago, someone complained of someone walking above them," said Shawn Chamberlin. Interestingly, there was only roof above that guest's room.

Chamberlin said that The Paranormal Seekers split themselves into two groups. One group, called the 'sensitives' rely on their spiritual connection to communicate and validate experiences with supernatural entities. The other group uses scientific equipment such as EMF readers to capture and validate paranormal events. To ensure the 'sensitive' group's credibility, they were not told the exact location of the investigation beforehand.

"They were really really transparent with everything going on," said Shawn Chamberlin. "We were welcomed to watch or even to participate if we wanted. I sat with them for a fair bit, but didn't want to get in their way."

Chamberlin says that all guests are welcome to attempt to connect to supernatural forces and larger groups of supernatural investigators are more than welcomed.

Chameberlin says that unexplainable things happen frequently in the world around us.

"You really have to be receptive. Not everybody is observant. A lot of things that go on require you to be observant," said Shawn Chamberlin. "A lot of people wouldn't notice something like a flickering light or footsteps after everybody has gone to bed."

"We do see a lot of things that we can't explain."

"It's funny because anybody that has any sort of experience, they don›t realize they are having it," said Shawn Chamberlin.

"We had a lady staying at one of our rooms in the wintertime. In the morning, she thanked me for the great night and sending in a housekeeper to check in on me," said Shawn Chamberlin. The woman told him that a housekeeper came into her room and stood by her bed. She described her body whelmed with a feeling of warmth, niceness, and that she was cared for. The Dominion Hotel does have a housekeeper.

On another occasion, Shawn's son was staying at the Dominion Hotel and heard music from the 1920s and 1930s. Thinking a clock radio was left on, he went to investigate but found them all unplugged. At night, they have seen chairs move on their security cameras.

It is those kinds of things that happen, said Shawn Chamberlin.

"Just because you cannot explain it doesn't mean it didn't happen."

"We do have the girl in the attic who shows herself periodically," said Shawn Chamberlin. "There is nobody living in the attic. There are a lot of people that have seen it and it is one of the stories that everybody tells."

In a post to their Facebook page, The Paranormal Seekers said that as soon as they began their investigation at the Dominion Hotel, they had three separate K2 meters and two different REM pods all spike in and around the bathtub in room four.

"These energy spikes seemed to correlate to our questions, beeping and flashing lights in response. The team was unable to find a logical explanation as to why multiple pieces of equipment would react in such a way," said their post. The team says that they had numerous encounters throughout the night including three separate figures appearing on SLS camera and their strip lights and Spirit Bell activating.

«We were thrilled to head back to Minden and were completely blown away by the activity we encountered,» said their post.

"Sunday night after the folks had left we were sitting in the pub doing a wrap up and all the lights were off. All of a sudden, one of the lights came on. It was like it was on a dimmer," said Shawn Chamberlin. "The switch was off and there was no power to it." In addition, their computer near the front was flashing on and off.

"It was such a great experience, it was fun, and a little enlightening and maybe a little frightening too," said Shawn Chamberlin.

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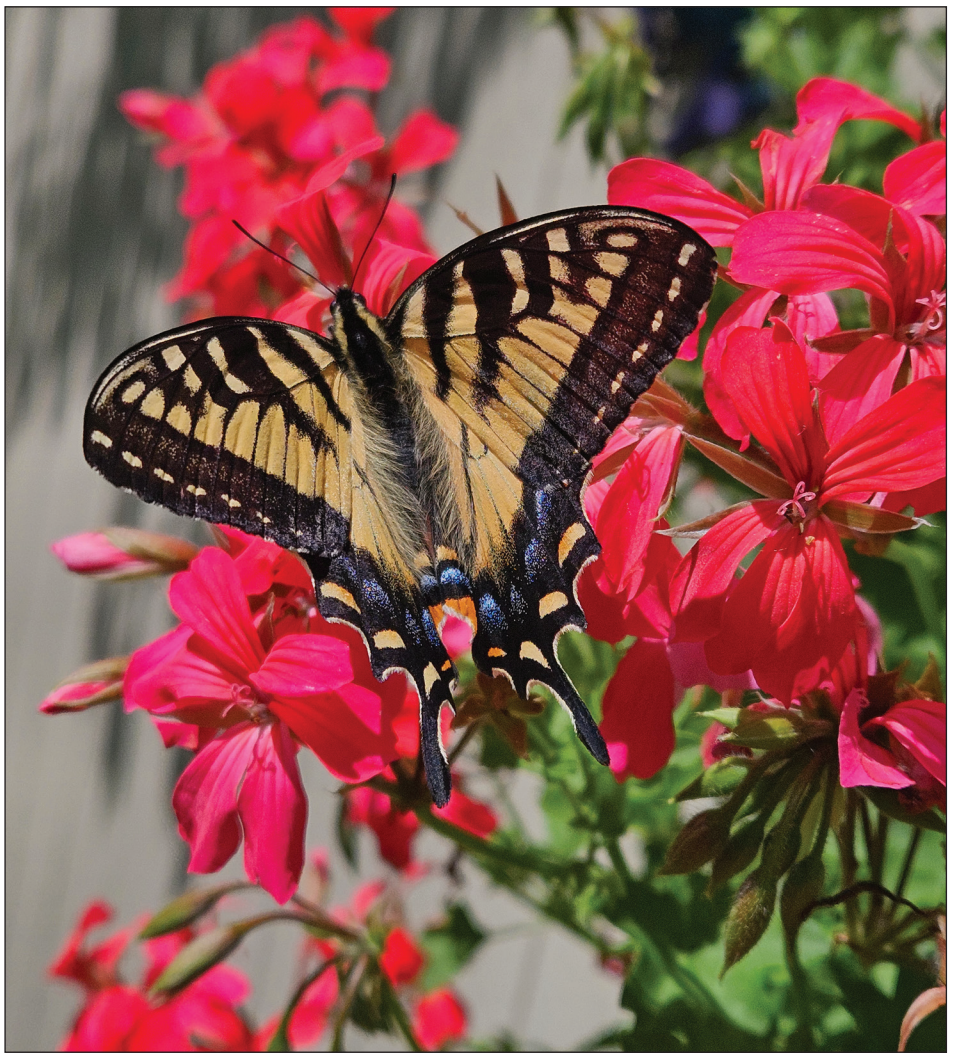

A beautiful tiger swallow tail in the garden. /Submitted by Yvonne Friend

Ducklings at the marsh. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

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Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Social Cornhole 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Canteen opens at 6 p.m. with open darts to start at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (members only) at 7:30 p.m. 3rd Thursday every month
Friday: Backyard BBQ 5 to 7 p.m.
Bingo: doors Open at 5:30 p.m. play starts at 6:45 p.m. $300 jackpot with a progressive $500 jackpot (no bingo on Aug. 30 (see below)
Saturday: Canteen opens at 3 p.m. with meat draw to start at 5 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) 3rd Sunday every month at 2 p.m.
Special Bingo on Thursday, Aug. 29
Doors open at 5 p.m. with food available play starts at 6:45 p.m. $500.00 MUST GO jackpot
Aug. 30, 31, Sept. 1 - Breakfast is available from 7 until 11 a.m.
Hall available to rent for any occasion, call 705-488-3462. Everyone is welcome to any events, to join our meetings then become a member. Follow our Facebook page - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 441 Kinmount. We are always posting new events! For all you ladies out there, join our Ladies Auxiliary, we are always looking for new faces! If you are interested, please phone 705-928-7105!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge every Monday, 1 p.m. Schofield Rm.
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. First Wed of each month - $1000 jackpot, rest will be a $500 jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice.
Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Closed: Sunday and Tuesday
Monday: Evening Darts 7 p.m.
Legion open 6 to 10 p.m.
Wednesday: Open 2 to 6 p.m.
Darts 2 p.m.
Thursday: Open 2 to 10 p.m., Horseshoes 7 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 30 - Wings and Jam night
Friday, Aug. 23 Fish and chips,chicken fingers, Diners club Noon
Saturday Meat draw Legion Open 2 to 11 p.m.
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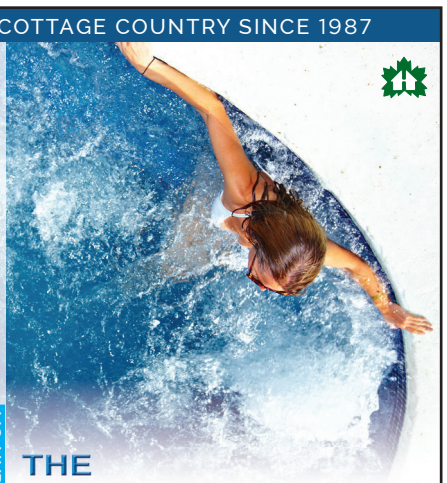

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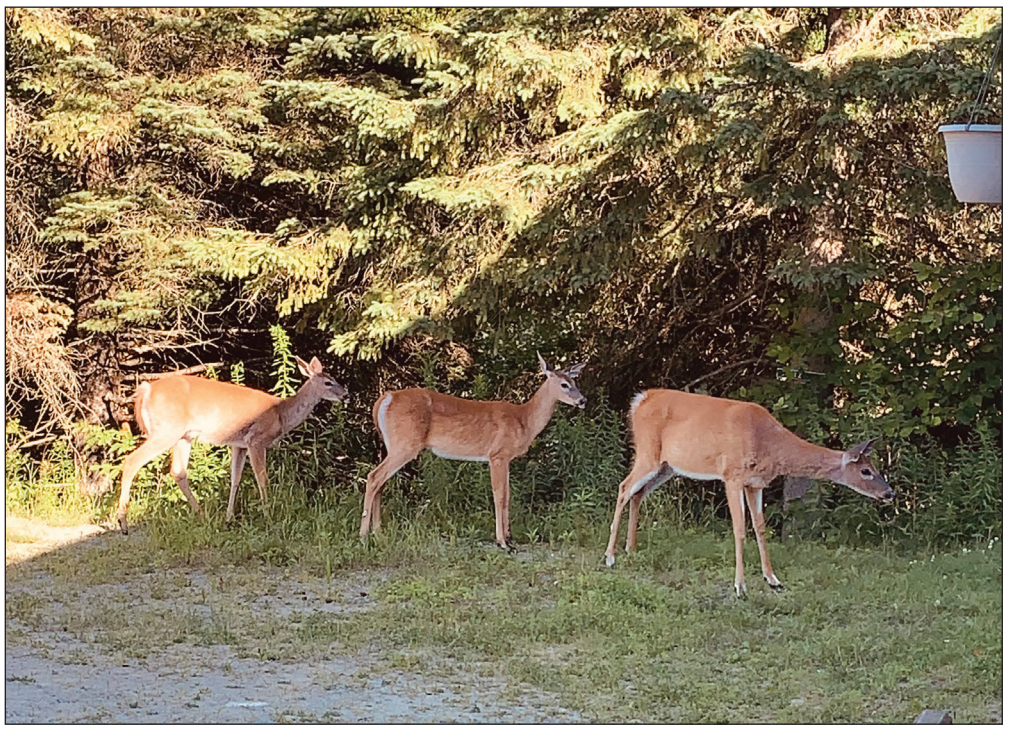
Nature in your backyard

A Northern Flicker. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

A Great Blue Heron flies over the marsh. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email vivian@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.



Three nightly visitors. /Submitted by Kelly Elliot

A loon and loonlet on Minnicock Lake. /Submitted by Wilma Vahrmeyer

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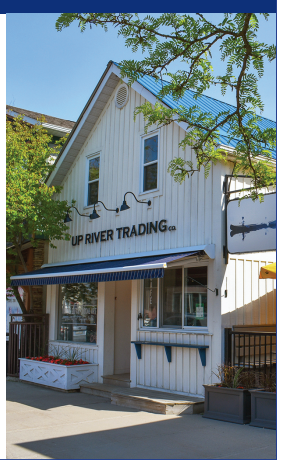

390 BILLETS NEEDED

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Billet families play an integral part in the success and support of each player.

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LOOK INSIDE

Church life

Helen Skelding has always found a way to attend Zion United Church.

See page 3

Driven to succeed

15-year-old Mike Lennox is working hard towards his goal of being a top golfer

See page 13

Natural classroom

The learning comes naturally when museum hosts a special camp

See page 10

See spot jump

The Haliburton County Fair was fun for everyone – even your pet pooch

See page 17

In Quotes

"It's our garbage. We need to deal with it."

Napier Simpson doesn't take the NIMBY approach to township's plans for Maple Lake landfill

See page 1

Minden businesses summered well

by **BRYN WEESE**
Times Staff

The end of summer is nigh. With the heat of these past few months, many are wondering how the local Minden businesses did. The answer is unequivocally "great!"

For many businesses, this summer was more successful than they had hoped. Given the weather, many storeowners are very pleased with the business they have had this summer.

"This has been by far our best summer," says Sue Yallop from That Place in Carnarvon. "I think everyone is having a good summer."

Yallop specifically mentioned the weather as a cause to her good fortune. "The weather is worth staying up for," she says.

The wickedly hot weather of the past few months did have some business owners worried, such as Greg Turner from the Peppermill, who said that sometimes when the weather is very hot, there is a tendency not to want to leave the lake.

Despite his fears, Turner reported that the Pepper Mill did have a very successful summer season and is looking forward to the fall.

Another restaurant that fared well this sum-

see EVEN *page 2*

Bryn Weese/TIMES

Thumbs up for cancer camps

In the early hours of August 13 on County Road 121, Tour for Kids riders took to the highways heading for Bobcaygeon on the third day of the fundraising ride. So far the event has raised $400,000 to send children who have cancer to summer camp. Story page 12.

Maple Lake gives landfill plan tentative approval

by **BRYN WEESE**
Times Staff

The Maple, Beech and Cameron Lakes Association is waiting to make a formal stance on Algonquin Highlands' proposed Waste Management Plan until the final public meeting is held.

A lack of advertising and a delay in mailing out the 2004 tax bills resulted in very low turnout at the public meetings on August 4 and 6. The township, in accordance with the requirements of the provincial government, has scheduled a third public meeting for Wednesday August 31 in the Stanhope Firefighters' Hall between 7 and 9 p.m. The Ontario government requires that sufficient public consultation be held for such matters.

The association has not formally voted to support the proposed Waste Management Plan but has been recommended to do so, says acting association president Paul MacInnes.

Other members of the executive also support the plan.

"It is our garbage," said Napier Simpson, acting vice president. "We need to deal with it."

MacInnes said the executive has recommended that the association supports the proposed septage lagoon plan at the Maple Lake landfill. He said that both plans were well conceived and necessary, given the short lifespan left at Algonquin Highlands' landfill sites and the Ontario government's decision to stop allowing untreated septage to be spread on fields.

Despite MacInnes' and Simpson's overall support of the plans, the official policy of the

see MEMBERS *page 2*

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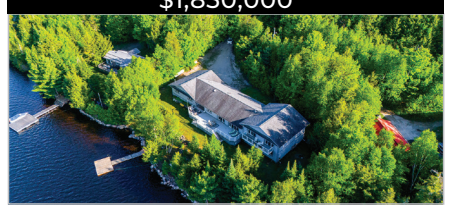

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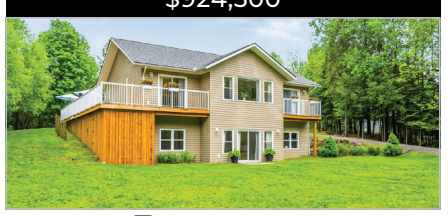

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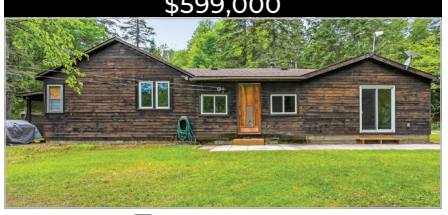

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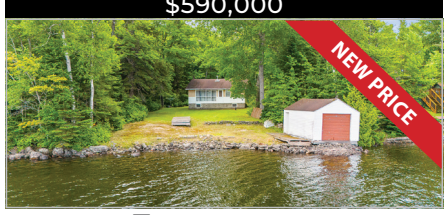

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